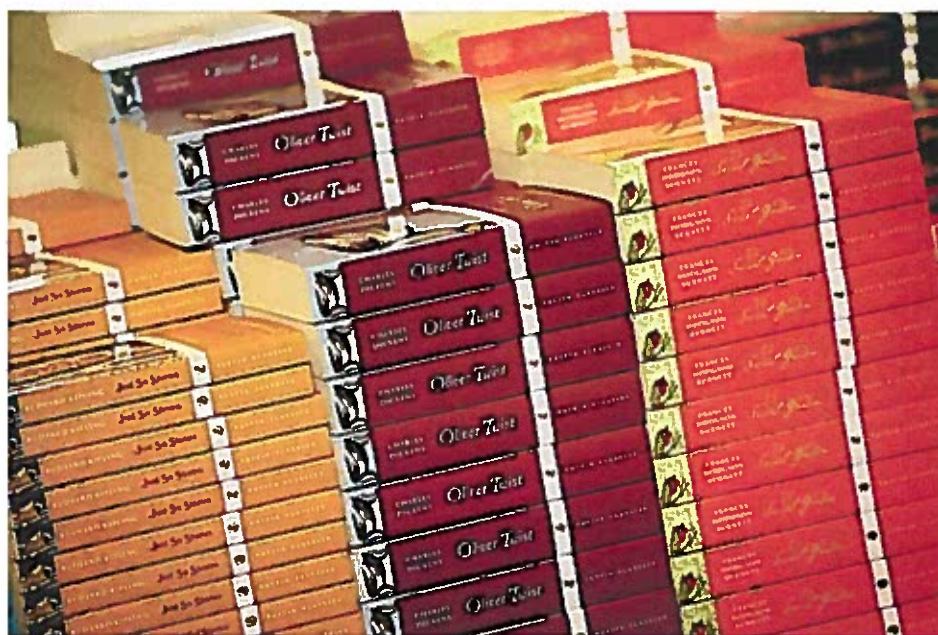


LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

# Book festival has something for everyone



LONDON - MARCH 06: Leading children's book publisher Puffin launch the new 'Puffin Classics Collection' at Waterstones on March 6, 2008 in London, England. (Photo by Dan Kitwood/Getty Images)

*Posted: Yesterday 8:51 p.m.*

When you put together history, 42 and football, along with local authors in all genres, you know it's time for the annual West Texas Book Festival.

The 16th annual festival will begin with the author lunch program at noon Sept. 19 at the downtown Abilene Public Library featuring authors Carl and Pixie Christensen and their book "Lone Star Steeples: Historic Places of Worship in Texas."

The beautifully illustrated volume features 65 historically significant structures and places of worship, including St. John United Methodist Church of Stamford.

At noon Sept. 20, the focus again will be on history, with Glen Sample Ely and his latest book, "The Texas Frontier and the Butterfield Overland Mail, 1858-1861."

The Overland Mail route ran from St. Louis to San Francisco — crossing through Texas and intersecting and influencing much of Texas' frontier history. It was the 19th-century equivalent of the modern interstate highway system, stimulating passenger traffic, commercial freighting and business in the Big Country and Texas. This readable volume will delight history fans.

Oh, and by the way, did I mention that once again, scrumptious food will be a part of these and all of our noon programs throughout the week? You are welcome to bring your lunch, or the Friends of the Abilene Public Library will provide lunch for only \$5. It's the perfect opportunity for a special break in the middle of the day.

Be sure and return at 5:30 p.m. Sept. 20 for the Abilene Author Showcase. Local authors who have been published in the past year will discuss, sell and sign their books. You will be amazed, I'm sure, at the range of genres and interests represented by our friends and neighbors, some of whom you might not have known were published authors. Here's your opportunity to find out more about this facet of our community.

The noon program Sept. 21 will be a fun one, as Dennis Roberson talks about his book "Winning 42: Strategy and Lore of the National Game of Texas." Roberson got his love of the

game from his dad, who won the 1995 Texas Senior Games 42 Championship.

Even better, if you want to practice your game with the help of the expert, stay after lunch and play 42. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, you'll have the time of your life and maybe learn a smooth move or two.

Friday in Texas means high school football, and the festival honors this tradition by bringing Chad Conine, author of "The Republic of Football: Legends of the Texas High School Game" to our Sept. 23 luncheon program.

Encompassing seven decades of schoolboy fame, from Hayden Fry to Colt McCoy, this book will be one for every fan of Texas' legendary high school players, coaches and teams.

I've barely hit the highlights of the week, so mark your calendar now so you won't miss a thing. For a complete schedule of events, go to [www.abilenetx.com/apl](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl) and click on the Boots & Books logo or drop by any library location and pick up a brochure.

And be sure to set aside the entire day Sept. 24 for more great authors, food and books. We'll have the skinny on that in next Monday's column.

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